

From: [Rilling, Cyndi \(CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH\)](#)
To: [Nickle, Richard \(ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB\)](#); [Patrick Young/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Robert Safay/R4/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Cc: [George Pettigrew/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Welsh, Clement \(ATSDR/DRO\)](#); [Forrester, Tina \(ATSDR/DRO\)](#); [Holler, James S. \(Jim\) \(ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB\)](#); [Murray, Ed \(ATSDR/DTEM/OD\)](#); [Allred, Phillip M. \(Mike\) \(CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH\)](#); [Olivares, Dagny \(ATSDR/OC\)](#); [Telfer, Jana L. \(CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH\)](#); [Furphy, Larry \(CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH\)](#); [Wright, Scott V. \(ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB\)](#); [Rilling, Cyndi \(CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH\)](#)
Subject: RE: Mississippi Canyon Oil Spill - Fact Sheets
Date: 04/28/2010 10:01 AM

I can add a few more to consider... and pasted them into the list started below....

Cyndi Rilling, MPH

Emergency Coordinator/OTPER DPR Team Lead

NCEH/ATSDR

Email: csw3@cdc.gov

Cell: 404-550-5603 *Best Contact

Office: 770-488-7216

Blackberry: 678-488-2440

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From: Nickle, Richard (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 10:24 AM
To: 'Young.Patrick@epamail.epa.gov'; 'Safay.Robert@epamail.epa.gov'
Cc: Pettigrew.George@epamail.epa.gov; Welsh, Clement (ATSDR/DRO); Forrester, Tina (ATSDR/DRO); Holler, James S. (Jim) (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB); Murray, Ed (ATSDR/DTEM/OD); Allred, Phillip M. (Mike) (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Rilling, Cyndi (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Olivares, Dagny (ATSDR/OC); Telfer, Jana L. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Furphy, Larry (CDC/ONDIEH/NCEH); Wright, Scott V. (ATSDR/DTEM/PRMSB)
Subject: Mississippi Canyon Oil Spill - Fact Sheets

Gentlemen, in course of working on our technical input to the Unified Area Command's Joint Information Center (JIC) on the issue about the odors from the oil spill, Dagny provided the list of questions below my signature as issues that seem to pop up in similar events. I imagine the JIC is aware of these issues as well. Dagny suggested it would be a good idea if we could work with the JIC to develop answers to these questions as well as others that may have surfaced specific to this incident and keep the answers updated as the situation changes – probably on the event website. I know the CDC Office of Communications has been working on incorporating social media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) in risk communications and that may be something for folks to consider incorporating into the planning as well.

Not all of these issues are ones that HHS should be answering; these are just the ones that seem to keep surfacing. I am sure CDC/ATSDR would be willing to help the JIC frame answers to those that we can contribute to and share any social media strategies. Can you share these with the Unified Command through the RRT Co-Chairs for your respective regions? If they would like support on developing the information, please let us know.

Rich Nickle

ATSDR Emergency Response

Is it safe to eat fish? What about shellfish?

Will this cause cancer?

Is the air safe to breathe?

Is the water safe to drink?

Can this get into my drinking water supply? What if I'm on a well?

What are they doing to keep this from happening again?

Are people who are already sick more vulnerable to these pollutants?

I've been getting headaches/stomachaches/etc. Is it related to the spill?

Is it safe to swim? Boat?

If we already smell odors now, what will happen when the slick eventually comes ashore?

Will the oil slick seep into brackish water, estuaries, rivers, etc. and cause inshore problems?

What can I do when I come across oil or tar balls that come onshore?

What can workers do to protect themselves from negative health affects as they cleanup this event?

What can I do if my child or my pet comes into contact with the oil or tar balls?

If beaches are closed, how will I know when it is safe to come back?

Can shellfish or ocean fish absorb chemicals and pollutants from this spill? If so, can it affect humans if they eat exposed/tainted shellfish? If shellfish are tainted, how long before it is safe to eat them again?

Where can I go to find additional information about this event?